

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 Disclosed are an optical fiber preform manufacturing apparatus and method in which
2 processes for shrinking and closing a deposited tube are conducted using a device suitable for those
3 processes, which device is other than the device used in a deposition process for forming the
4 deposited tube on the inner surface of a preform tube, thereby reducing the processing time while
5 reducing the amount of OH penetrated from the preform tube into a vitreous component of the
6 deposited tube, thereby achieving a reduction in OH loss. In accordance with the optical fiber
7 preform manufacturing apparatus and method, operations are conducted which involve setting the
8 heating temperature of a circular heater to a temperature lower than the softening point of a deposited
9 tube, exhausting contaminants existing in the interior of the deposited tube while moving the circular
10 heater at a desired temperature, setting the heating temperature of the circular heater to a temperature
11 not lower than the softening point of the deposited tube, and shrinking and closing the deposited tube
12 while moving the circular heater to a desired temperature.